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from that a levy is set. So it's a process that's quite separate and distinct from "setting a levy" which we used to do in Class I schools forty years ago. There was a comment made with respect to the \$1.6 million in the coffers and you can fill in the blanks with any entity of local government, it doesn't have to be in the NRDs, which is the root problem why we had to put in place LB 114...1114, why we had everything. We had tried many, many facets of state aid, folks, and this is a direct quote because I wrote it down, said, "it's easier to spend state money", end of quote. Folks, it doesn't make a whole lot of difference on the grand scale of things what we do with the Wickersham amendment on this. If it becomes a property tax reduction incentive to NRDs perhaps, and maybe it is and maybe it isn't because it's really a small sum in the overall scope of things, then it becomes a property tax increase issue for counties, the same million, six hundred and some thousand Nebraskans are paying both the property taxes and the income and sales taxes that go into state aid. I don't know what I have to say to get everyone here to understand that you cannot hide behind words. It's the same people paying the same bills to run a variety of different local governments as well as state services. I am not going to belabor this point any longer, but there is no magic milk pitcher to pour anything out of. If you take away from one place, you add on another place in pressure. If you add to one, you take away from another. Within...within the confines of all of the money that the citizens of the state of Nebraska are going to contribute to local and state coffers, from all sources, we have consistently, consistently tried to compartmentalize and create an image that we have free money someplace and, folks, it just doesn't exist. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, some things were said that I don't quite agree with, one, that this is pitting counties against the NRDs. It's really a choice for us to use the dollars that we have most efficiently and to assure that we are still able to provide for local services. Again, I will emphasize that it is necessary to use our dollars to provide for local services where there aren't adequate local